

REMARKS

The drawings were objected to by the Examiner. Formal drawings were submitted under separate Letter to the Official Draftsperson (with a copy to the Examiner) which incorporated the change required by the Examiner, as evidenced by a copy of the postcard dated June 26, 2000. Applicants have also attached a copy of said formal drawings depicting FIGS. 1-9 for the Examiner's convenience. Approval by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

By this amendment Applicants have deleted Claims 13, 15, 16 and 19-32. This will confirm the election of claims 14-17 for prosecution.

Claims 14, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Claim 14, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner has objected to the lack of support in the specification for the barrier layer and information-receiving layer. It is quite clear and the Examiner recognizes that the information-receiving layer receives dyes. The receiver is for a thermal printing apparatus shown in FIG. 1. A receiver, also known as a dye-receiving element, used in this type of arrangement, is well known in the art. For example, in U.S. Patent 5,369,077, which was cited on page 1 of the present application, a dye-receiving element or receiver is described which includes a support, a barrier layer, and a dye-receiving layer. Column 9, line 11 et seq. of the '077 patent describes materials which can form the support. The information-receiving layer (dye image-receiving layer) and the materials which can form such layer, are described in detail in column 2, lines 60 et seq. in the '077 patent. The dye barrier layer is disclosed and materials for forming it is disclosed in column 11, lines 42 et seq. of the '077 patent. Clearly, one skilled in this art would clearly understand what types of materials would have to be used. The literature is replete with the structure recited in claim 14. Other than the clear

layer, the claimed image-receiving structure is well known in the art. The clear layer receives a water-based colorant image transferred by a stamp. For further example, materials which can form the image-receiving layer are also the subject matter of U.S. Patent 5,614,464, cited on page 2. Although Applicants have not searched, they believe there are hundreds of patents which disclose the image-receiving structure set forth in claim 14, and the Examiner is asked to take judicial notice of these patents. In any event, one skilled in the art would know the composition of a barrier layer and information-receiving layer.

By this amendment, claim 14 has been changed to clearly recite that the clear layer is for receiving and holding a water-based colorant image transferred by a stamp. This feature is believed not known in the art, not suggested by any references of which Applicants are aware, and is believed to be patentable in combination with the well known image-receiving structure. It is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has now been overcome by this amendment. Accordingly, claim 14 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 17 and 18 depend upon claim 14 and should be allowed along with it.


Applicants believe they have addressed all the issues raised by the Examiner. However, if there are any problems with these changes, Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to Show Changes Made**".

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Enclosure

Respectfully submitted,


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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Claim 13 has been cancelled.

Claim 14 has been amended as set forth below:

14 (Twice Amended) A receiver for receiving a water-based colorant image transferred by a stamp, comprising:

(a) an image receiving [a] structure having:

- (i) a support;
- (ii) a barrier layer formed over the support; and
- (iii) an information receiving layer which contains recorded information, said information receiving layer being formed over the barrier layer; and

(b) a clear layer formed over the information receiving layer for receiving and holding a water-based colorant image transferred by a stamp[, said clear layer being more hydrophilic than the image receiving structure].

Claim 15 has been cancelled.

Claim 16 has been cancelled.

Claims 19-32 have been cancelled.